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# College and School News

At DILLARD UNIVERSITY the social studies club presented a panel discussion on the "Labor Movement and the Negro Worker." Speakers were Edward X. Dunn, business agent of the Boilermakers; Monroe T. Stringer, Jr., assistant representative of the Construction and General Laborers Union, Local No. 689; and Ernest J. Wright, organizational representative of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. Dr. George Snowden, associate professor of economics, was chairman.

Principal speaker at the annual observance of National Negro History Week was Dr. Rufus E. Clement, president of Atlanta university. Other features of the celebration were a verse choir reading of Negro poetry under the direction of Randolph Edmonds, professor of drama; a talk on Louisiana history by Charles B. Rousseve, author of *The Negro in Louisiana;* and a play about Marie Leveau, famous New Orleans cult leader of the nineteenth century, written by John M. Ross, associate professor of drama who recently returned to Dillard after a ten-day trip to New York and Canada attending conferences connected with moving pictures and the drama. Dr. Benjamin Quarles, professor of history, was in charge of the program.

Miss Rita Miller, head of the division of nursing, was recently appointed to three important committees of the National League of Nursing Education: curriculum, vocational guidance, and the joint committee for the integration of social and health aspects of nursing in the basic curriculum. The division of nursing at Dillard is one of the four collegiate nursing schools in the country for Negroes which give the B. S. degree in nursing.

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HOWARD UNIVERSITY opened its second quarter with the largest number of new students in its history. The university also has opened a Veterans' Counseling and Advisory Office under the direction of Carroll L. Miller of the department of education. Mr. Miller recently returned from the College of the City of New York where he studied counseling of veterans under a program jointly sponsored by that institution and the Veterans Administration.

According to the secretary of the university all matters affecting veterans who wish to study at Howard, including personal problems, will be handled in this office. More than one hundred veterans of World War II enrolled in the university in the second quarter in medicine, dentistry, law, engineering, pharmacy, the liberal arts, and the graduate school. More than one thousand graduates and former students of

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The opening address before the annual college president's lecture series at NORTH CAROLINE COLLEGE was delivered by Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, president of Howard. Other college heads scheduled to speak in the series are Dr. Charles Wesley, president of Wilberforce university; Dr. Horace Mann Bond, president of Fort Valley State Teachers' College; Dr. Charles Stewart, former president of Kittrell college; Dr. William S. Nelson, former president of Shaw and Dillard; and Dr. Rufus Clement, president of Atlanta university.

Dr. Elbert Russell and Dr. Frank S. Hickman, both of Duke university, have been recent speakers at college vesper services.

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Percy H. Baker, associate professor of biology at VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE, was awarded his Ph. D. degree in zoology at the fall convocation of the University of Michigan. His thesis was in the field of genetics.

Dr. Baker did his high school work in the laboratory high school of Virginia State and his undergraduate and the first year of his graduate work at the University of Pittsburgh. While studying at Michigan, he was a member of Phi Sigma, the biological society, and the scientific society Sigma Xi.

Registration for the second semester, which began February 6, was so heavy that more than two hundred students were refused admission because of lack of dormitory space.

Eleven seniors completed their work at the end of the first semester. Two of them are the ranking students of the 1944-45 senior class: Miss Bernice Ola Wright of Covington, Virginia, and Miss Naomi Cornelia Long of New Rochelle, New York.

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The annual conference of the Citizens' Committee was held at DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE in February.

President Howard D. Gregg has asked the Delaware state legislature for an appropriation of one million dollars to meet additional expenses of the college and to cover a ten-year building program. Addition of three new buildings, a dormitory, and science and agriculture buildings, constitutes part of the building program.

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Recent events at WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE have been the observance of Founder's Day by the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the graduation exercises for the fall and winter semesters, the celebration of National George Washington Carver Week, and the conference for the purpose of recruiting

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The principal address on Founder's Day was delivered by Mrs. Beulah T. Whitby of Detroit, Mich., a member of the faculty of Wayne university in that city. Judge Herschel H. Rose, of the State Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, was the commencement speaker January 28. Twenty-one students were candidates for degrees.

Principal speakers on the George Washington Carver program were Austin W. Curtis, Sr., head of the department of agriculture; Austin W. Curtis, Jr., assistant to Dr. Carver until the latter's death; and A. C. Warrington, of the department of biology.

The principal address on the nurse recruitment program was delivered by Miss Emily Hildegarde Hill of the Goldwater Memorial Hospital, Welfare Island, N. Y.

An attractive exhibit composed of photographs of medieval gothic cathedrals was on display at the college in January. The exhibit was loaned by the art department of the University of Pittsburgh and sponsored by the art department of the college.

The American Red Cross course in water safety and life saving was offered by the college in January. Daniel Leonard, field representative of the Red Cross, and Mrs. Dorothy G. Wharton, instructor in swimming at the college, conducted the course.

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Dr. Mary L. Reddick, member of the biology department at MOREHOUSE COLLEGE and an exchange teacher in biology at Spelman, has been elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She is a member-in-course of Iota chapter, Radcliffe college, Mass., in recognition of her high scholarship while in residence at that college. A native of Atlanta, Dr. Reddick took her under-graduate work at Spelman and earned masters degrees at both Atlanta university and Radcliffe. Radcliffe awarded her a Ph. D. degree last June.

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Dr. Rayford W. Logan, chairman of the department of history at Howard, was a recent speaker at ATLANTA UNIVERSITY. He discussed the mandate system and African colonies from the subject "Department Areas in the Post-War World."

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three hundred prominent Raleigh citizens, SHAW UNIVERSITY formally launched a drive for a quarter-million dollars with which to initiate its new development program. Funds from the first campaign will be used for a new administration building and a badly-needed dormitory. Former governor J. Melville Broughton, a member of the trustee board, is honorary chairman of the state-wide campaign.

Coach Lytle has announced that Shaw will resume competitive intercollegiate football next fall.

Houser Miller, acting head of the department of philosophy and advisor to the YMCA, was recently honored for his nine years' service at the school. Coming to Shaw in 1934 as instructor in psychology, Mr. Miller has served as personnel advisor to students, director of the chapel and vesper services, and at intervals as acting dean of men. He was recently appointed assistant dean of men at Hampton Institute.

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LINCOLN UNIVERSITY (Mo.) celebrated Founder's Day January 14. The principal address was delivered by Chester A. Franklin, editor of the Kansas City *Call*. Lincoln university was established 79 years ago.

Dr. W. W. Dowdy and Alan T. Busby delivered the main addresses in celebration of George Washington Carver Week. Miss Sara Jane Spencer, assistant professor of history, was chairman of the program.

Sterling A. Brown, associate professor of English at Howard, was principal speaker on the Negro History Week program.

An exhibit composed of oils, water colors, pastels, and charcoal drawings by artists of the St. Louis area was recently on display at the university. The exhibit was loaned by John T. Clark, director of the St. Louis Urban League.

Funeral services for Mrs. Ruth Jason, wife of W. B. Jason, dean of students and vice-president of the university, were held in January. Mrs. Jason was born in Moberly, Mo., and was a former student of George R. Smith College and Lincoln.

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The DOWNINGTOWN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL at Downington, Pa., sponsors an interesting monthly newspaper, the *Downingtown Bulletin*. It is illustrated and printed on good stock. Each issue features news of importance to faculty and students.

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At the CHENEY STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE, Cheyney, Pa., the students get out an interesting and well-written paper called *The Cheyney Record*. It is illustrated.

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tend that school. This scholarship is part of the post-war program for interracial amity similar to the program sponsored by Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio. Antioch has a scholarship fund for Negro students. Miss Muriel Rahn, former star of "Carmen Jones," contributed fifty dollars to the fund.

---

HAMPTON INSTITUTE observed the seventy-seventh anniversary of its opening January 28 when tribute was paid to the late Brigadier General Samuel Chapman Armstrong, who founded the school in 1868. Lester B. Granger, executive secretary of the National Urban League, was principal speaker. He is also a member of the Hampton board of trustees.

Houser Miller, for the past nine years a member of the staff of Shaw university, has been appointed assistant dean of men.

Twenty-five young men and women were candidates for degrees and diplomas at the midyear commencement exercises January 22. Dr. Channing H. Tobias preached the baccalaureate sermon and R. O'Hara Lanier, dean of the faculty at Hampton, delivered the main address.

The January graduating class announced a gift of $40.00 to the college. This sum will be combined with the gift of the May graduates at the college.

Recent speakers at the college have been Dr. M. F. Ashley Montagu, associate professor of anatomy at Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.; Dr. Lilla Belle Pitts, associate professor of music education at Teachers College, Columbia university; and Roy Wilkins, acting secretary of the NAACP.

---

## Federal Council Churches Urges Racial Equality

Calling upon the churches to furnish the leadership in eliminating racial discrimination, the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America declared in January in a special race relations message that colored service-men who have fought with their white comrades "will not accept in peace that which in war they opposed unto the death."

The war has shown up the falsity of American racial attitudes, the message declares; and acknowledges the "conspicuous failure of American Christians to bring their racial actions into line with their professions." Describing the racial situation as "tense," the statement pointed out that Negroes are greatly concerned about jobs, about segregation in and out of the armed services, and about equality of treatment after the war. In conclusion the message outlined twelve "musts" for Christians.

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## Negro Mutual Insurance Co. Chartered in New York

What was formerly the United Mutual Benefit Association now becomes a mutual life insurance company, with the issuance of a charter by the State of New York. The firm now operates under the name of the United Mutual Life Insurance Company, the first Negro owned and operated mutual insurance company to be chartered under the stringent laws of the state of New York. Dr. Charles N. Ford is president of the company.

## Dean Dixon Wins IWO Lodge Negro History Award

Dean Dixon, musician and conductor, was voted the award of a $150 War Bond offered by Lincoln Steffens Lodge No. 500, International Workers Order, to a young Negro for outstanding contribution to American culture. Roi Ottley, writer, and Pearl Primus, dancer, received honorable mention, tying for second place.

The committee of judges were Hon. A. C. Powell, Jr., member of Congress; Langston Hughes, poet; Eugene Gordon, journalist; Clarence Muse, screen actor; and Simon Schachter, president of Lodge 500. Dean Dixon was given recognition by the judges for his musicianship, and his intense efforts for serious music.

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## Nursing School Holds Commencement

On February 2 the Harlem Hospital School of Nursing held commencement exercises in the Mother AME Zion church at 140 West 137th Street.

# THE CRISIS

Founded 1910
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

*A Record of the Darker Races*

*Editor:* ROY WILKINS

*Editorial Advisory Board:* Lewis S. Gannett, Arthur B. Spingarn, Sterling A. Brown, William Allen Neilson, Walter White, Carl Murphy, John Hammond.

Vol. 52, No. 3 Whole Number 411


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Miss Sara L. Harris is a native of Wilkesboro, N. C., and a graduate of Bennett College, Greensboro, N. C. She was formerly a school teacher but is at present a model and assistant to Morgan Smith, the well-known Harlem photographer.

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## NOTICE TO READERS

***The Crisis*** **has been cooperating with the War Production Board in the conservation of paper as a part of its aid toward the war effort. So in order not to exceed our paper quota we have reduced this issue of the magazine to 24 instead of our usual 32 pages.**

## NEXT MONTH

***The Crisis*** **will carry the usual features in addition to several previously scheduled articles. Richard Pattee and George Clifton Edwards promise us articles and Chester B. Himes will have a short story entitled "The Song Says 'Keep On Smiling'."**

## OUR CONTRIBUTORS

**Arthur Burke is a frequent contributor to *The Crisis*. He teaches English at Hampton Institute. Miss Constance Curtis is on the staff of the New York *Amsterdam News*. She writes the weekly column "New Yorker's Album." Rev. LeRoy Ferguson lives in Boston, Massachusetts. Stetson Kennedy lives in Florida and is a frequent contributor to our pages. His most recent book is *The Four Freedoms Down South*.**

# Editorials

## Georgia Poll Tax Goes

SELDOM in one month has there been such good news from the race relations front: the state legislature of Georgia has repealed the poll tax as a pre-requisite for voting, and Alabama's governor and state chairman of the Democratic party both have advised the state to abide by the U. S. supreme court decision in the white primary case and permit Negroes to register and vote as Democrats.

One has to rub one's eyes at these developments. The sun, as the old preacher declared, do move. If the Negro can lay hold of the ballot in the Southland without any special racial restrictions being imterposed, he and the South can go a long way toward solving some of their problems.

Georgia's action on the poll tax leaves only seven states still employing that device for restricting the franchise. Virginia is struggling mightily to get rid of it, and the faces of the liberals in the Old Dominion state must be red at the realization that "deep" Georgia, far behind them in many ways, has beaten them to the punch. The tax remains in Tennessee, Alabama, South Carolina, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Texas.

The South will find that on the average Negroes as voters are no better and certainly no worse than whites. Some of them will vote machine politics, just as do whites. Some will sell their votes for cash or favors, just as do whites. Some will vote for the good of the whole community and some for their own selfish interests. Eventually the Negro business man will vote as a business man rather than as a Negro, and the Negro worker and farmer are likely to vote that way rather than as Negroes.

Eventually Negroes will seek to be elected to public office. If the North and West furnish any criteria, able men, as good as the average and better than some, will be chosen. No one will lose. Democracy will win.

By his forthright statements on the poll tax Georgia's Governor Ellis Arnall has taken the spotlight in the South and in the nation. Close behind him comes Alabama's Governor Chauncey Sparks speaking against the white primary. For decades the white South has complained that the rest of the nation has meddled in its race question, that the South must solve its own problems. The trouble has been that the South has hitherto taken timid steps within an unbroken basic pattern. Georgia and Alabama have cracked that pattern in their lastest moves. It is not expected that the intrenched forces will give way at once, or that the men who speak now are ready to wreck the entire system. But a beginning has been made and progress is certain to follow, progress not alone for the Negroes, but for the entire South.

## GOP Double-Cross

JUST as the fight for a permanent Fair Employment Practice Committee got underway in Congress, the Republican party, through Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio, delivered to Negro citizens the well-known double-cross.

The Republican party promised this legislation in its party platform adopted last summer in Chicago. The exact language in that document is:

"We pledge the establishment by Federal legislation of a permanent Fair Employment Practice Commission."

Senator Taft was chairman of the committee which drew up and recommended the adoption of this platform. The Republican candidates all over the country, from Governor Thomas E. Dewey on down, campaigned on this platform and sought the support of Negro voters on this FEPC clause and other promises.

But when Congress convened and moved toward enacting an FEPC bill, Senator Taft granted an interview to some of his constituents from Ohio and others, and told them bluntly he did not consider that the Republicans had promised an FEPC bill with "teeth" in it. He made the astonishing statement that he had agreed to the reporting of a bill with "teeth" but had never intended to support it. He said he did not think an FEPC ought to have compulsory or punitive powers, that such a body ought to investigate discrimination in employment in various areas, devise ways in which such discrimination could best be combatted, and proceed with conference, conciliation, mediation and persuasion to try to get employers not to discriminate.

In the course of the interview he is credited in press reports as having said the colored people "are getting ahead too fast" and are "pushing too hard."

Senator Taft's record on questions affecting the Negro is by now well known. He has joined upon every occasion with the most reactionary southern congressmen and senators in blocking, changing, or defeating legislation which would benefit Negroes. He did it in the Federal aid-to-education bill in 1943, dragging in the race and color question and setting up the bugaboo of mixed schools in the South. He did it in the Soldier vote fight, helping Rankin, Bilbo and others who fought the issue merely to keep the Negro soldier from getting a chance to vote.

Now Taft comes forward, turning his back upon his actions of last summer, declaring, as would any clumsy novice, that he "didn't understand the promise that way," and introduces his own bill providing for investigatory powers only. The Taft bill is designed to kill any real FEPC measure. The hatchet is out and it is not in the hands of Bilbo, or George, or McKellar, or Bailey, or Maybank from the Deep South, but in the aristocratic fingers of the distinguished senator from Ohio.

The Republican party cannot escape responsibility for Taft's actions. He is a leader in the party and in the Senate. The question of a fair chance at jobs after the war is a paramount one with Negroes, as with other groups. Anyone who acts to make it *especially* difficult for Negroes to get jobs, or who refrains from action that would help remove peculiar barriers to their employment cannot be considered as friendly. Until the Republicans disavow Senator Taft's action, preferably by whole-hearted support of an FEPC bill with "teeth" in it, Negroes cannot do other than consider the Republicans unfriendly to their basic necessity of earning a living.

## Front Line Fighters

FROM France, belatedly, come two stories of Negro combat troops. Some units of the 827th Tank Destroyer battalion came to the aid of the 315th Infantry, surrounded by Germans at Hatten. In the log of the 315th, the colonel wrote: "Some of those colored boys really were wonderful, swapping punch for punch with Tiger tanks." Later he told how one Negro sergeant jockeyed his tank destroyer around and with three shots knocked out three Nazi tanks. Still another story told of the 969th Field Artillery at Bastogne, fighting off Germans until their ammunition gave out, then continuing with ammunition dropped by parachute from big U. S. planes. Given a chance, the colored troops do their share toward victory.

# Why Hate?

## By Stetson Kennedy

***There have been many articles and stories dealing with specific manifestations of race hatred, but this author seeks out the psychological origins of the phenomenon***

NOT one of the four freedoms can be established everywhere in the world so long as there is uncontrolled antisocial hate anywhere in the world. This would be a depressing prospect were it not for the fact that—although antisocial hate will exist so long as men are human—men already have at hand the means of controlling the expression of such hatred, and can spare themselves much suffering if they will only put the controls into operation.

Before man, hate was. Hate came into being when the first animal developed memory to enable it to sustain anger, and human hate is simply animal hate in its most intricate form—an emotional and psychological compound of intense animosity. Instinctive xenophobia—fear of the unknown—is common to man and many other animals. A gift of natural selection, its efficacy as a life-saver in a predatory world brought it down to us through eons of time. Thus the child's first thought upon being confronted by a strange animal, human or otherwise, is "Will it bite?" If it does bite, then the child's worst fears are confirmed and a complicated sequence of emotional and psychological reactions sets in which may culminate in hate.

Primitive men no sooner became aware of their racial and cultural divergencies than they began to band together in tribes of their own kind. And individual xenophobias merged into group xenophobias. As such, they acquired the characteristics of mass psychology. The individual's fear of strange tribesmen was re-enforced by the identical fears of all his fellow-tribesmen; and the trepidation which had begun as a protective instinct now took on the infallibility of a verity imputed by socially consistent sensations.

### Physical Differences Divisive

Man thereupon proceeded to erect an institutional, legalistic, traditional, religious superstructure to proclaim the normalcy of his xenophobia. In all of this the high visibility of difference was what set in motion the suspicion-distrust-fear sequence, so that the intensity of intertribal hatred was usually proportionate to the degree of difference in physical appearance, language, and custom.

As various tribes evolved from pacific savagery into predaceous barbarism, the rival chieftains were quick to realize that by beating on war drums and otherwise stirring up hatred with atrocity stories they stood a better chance of success in their forays of pillage and conquest. Consequently they and their partners in crime, the medicine men, invoked both mundane and divine sanction for the law of the jungle—that might is right and to the victor belongs the spoils—as the only profitable code of intertribal conduct. The motto of barbarism (which we still have with us) has always been "Every man and tribe for itself, and the Devil take the hindmost."

### Pressure for Unity

In time, however, the societal pressure toward the integration of neighboring peoples began to get results. Too, the chieftains discovered that there was more profit to be made in trading with their neighbors than in destroying them. Consequently a new slogan entered into vogue: "Live and let live." This new order was welcomed by the common man, who much preferred it to risking his life and limbs in battle. Those with a hyper-will-to-acquire discarded open warfare for more productive forms of exploitation. Of course whenever this machinery failed to bring satisfactory results (as at Munich), there has always been war as the ultimate mode of coercion.

Only recently has mankind taken, or tried to take, the final step in his tedious approach to civilization under the banner of "Live and help live." Although this principle has always been operative among congenial neighbors, it is something quite novel in international relations; as philosophers have pointed out, there has been no morality between nations. Any nation which adopts the civilized code of live and help live is of necessity on the road to becoming democratic—both economically and politically—and is therefore opposed to exploitation, imperialism, and fascism.

There are many reasons why man is at long last prepared to take this step. In the past, his physical inability to produce the basic necessities of life in sufficient quantities for all has been a prime cause of international hate and war. Have-Nots have always been a threat to Haves, and understandably so. Now, however, technology has made possible plenty for all, and the mere prospect of freedom from want has done a great deal to allay selfish rivalry and bring mankind closer together than ever before.

Moreover, man's cumulative knowledge is at last bringing him to the realization that, from a purely selfish viewpoint if for no other reason, he must help others to live if he himself wishes to live and enjoy freedom from fear of periodic depression and war. He not only must not hate others, but he must also see to it that there is no cause for others to hate him.

### Cooperation Natural

Although it is entirely natural for people to first make issues of their differences, it is equally natural for them to resolve those differences and to work out ways of cooperation. This means that race hatred can only be kept alive by forces foreign to the folk themselves. The whole monstrous mass of racial animosities, despite their instinctive and traditional background, are not bona fide folkways, but a deadly virus that has been artificially cultivated by the few who profit from the disunity of the many. Without forced feeding of these asocial instincts, exploitation, imperialism, fascism, and war would be impossible.

Professionally-made hate comes in two packages: one, bearing the label of nationalism, contains an inordinate spirit of animosity toward other nationals, and is designed to prevent international democratic unity; the other, bearing the label of racism, contains hatred against racial minorities within the nation, and is designed to prevent democratic national unity.

All exploiters, oppressors, and aggressors have fostered such diversionary and divisive hatred in order that they might divide and rule and divide and conquer. Racism represents the ultimate expression of this policy. The forces making for democratic unification of the peoples of the world have become so irresistible that the exploiters have resorted to the extremity of fascism in a desperate effort to prolong the inevitable.

The War Against Fascism and for the Four Freedoms is an expression of the global determination to usher in the incipient era of the common man in which racial and national hatred will have no place—and the gates of repression shall not prevail against it.

Signal Corps Photos

**OUR BOYS IN FRANCE AND ITALY**—*In the top picture Pvt. Willie Beckham, Montotoc, Mississippi, has completed sighting this 155mm howitzer and he is waiting for Pvt. S. W. Huntley of Washington, Arkansas, to pull the lanyard to fire it. This picture was taken in Luxembourg, a grand duchy east of Belgium. At lower left is Pvt. L. C. Byrd of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, a cannoneer in an M-4 tank of a Motor Transport unit near Nancy, France. Center: S/Sgt. Joseph Ellis, New York City, a guard attached to the 15th Army Air Forces in Italy, carefully searches the bags and inspects the pass of this native before permitting him to pass through the area occupied by the air force. Right: Technician Fifth Grade Herbert L. Harris of Yonkers, N. Y., and his pet K-9, "Queenie," brought Christmas cheer to the men of his Aviation Engineer unit when he arrived with gift parcels for the boys "over there."*

# Bruce Leseine: The Lobsterman

## By LeRoy Ferguson

THE most popular, the most successful lobsterman at Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts, is Bruce LeSeine. For many years now, especially during the present war, habitues of this fashionable resort have clamored in ever increasing numbers for Bruce's two, three, and four pound crustaceans.

Bruce keeps his lobster-car in the picturesque harbor off Beach street at Manchester. Here his catch of lobsters are kept under water awaiting either sale or transport. And because no points are needed for lobsters the market has expanded and sales increased. Lobsters are sold far beyond the confines of Manchester. So many are sold that the trade has now taken on some of the aspects of big business.

Hundreds of people throng about Bruce's car night and day. Among them one even finds gourmets from Boston. Curiosity led me to pry into the lobsterman's profits and I questioned: "I suppose one can make at least five thousand a year?" "Before the war, perhaps yes; but now ten or twelve thousand would be a more likely profit," Bruce answered adroitly.

Much of lobsterman LeSeine's success is due to his thrifty and capable wife, Margaret. She and her husband live in a comfortable cottage across the street, facing the harbor, and she prepares or boils the lobsters for those who do not wish them alive. Mrs. LeSeine is a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, but neither her musical studies nor her devotion to music has prevented her from helping her husband sell thousands of lobsters during the season.

She is also a very good business manager, which partially explains the profits of "Bruce, the lobsterman," as he is respectfully and familiarly known all along the New England coast from Gloucester to Cape Cod bay and Provincetown.

What I wanted to know, however, was how LeSeine got into this exacting and exciting business of trapping lobsters. I wanted to know because Bruce is to my knowledge the only Negro in Manchester or anywhere else engaged in lobster catching in a big way. Bruce explained it this way:

"Well, it's like this. I always wanted to go into business for myself, but getting into the lobster business was largely a matter of circumstances. About twelve years ago my

***Catching lobsters has become a very successful vocation for this man***

boss was a railroad official and I had charge of his private car. He would always spend his summers here in Manchester on his estate, just across the harbor. I had always liked fishing and during my spare hours I'd go deep-sea fishing or lobstering. When I quit this job I settled down here and invested my savings in a necessary launch, trawl, lobster-pots, and traps. I also bought several pleasure boats for those of my patrons who liked to fish in and about the harbor of Manchester. This sort of life came natural to me, for I had seen much of deep-sea life in and around Port Royal, South Carolina, where my father had been a boat builder."

Lobster trapping is hard work. LeSeine is out tuning up his launch by five in the morning. He gets his crates set for baiting and then pushes out of the harbor at Manchester-by-the-Sea to the shore line of Beverly and Pride's crossing, and then out and around Misery Island to the lobster grounds. LeSeine now lets down his crates, marked with his well-known red and black blocks. This trip has to be made two and three times every day.

If one wants to know more about lobsters, let him look up Bruce LeSeine, the Lobsterman. And if one is fortunate enough to spend his week-end as a guest of the LeSeines in their charming apartment overlooking the harbor and bay, he will learn all about the mysteries of lobstering. He will find out where lobsters live along the rocky seacoast, how they foretell the weather, when they molt their shells, what sizes are legally marketable, and many more things about *homarus americanus.*

One leaves this man's apartment with the conviction that Bruce LeSeine the Lobsterman is not only a successful trapper of the delicious crustaceans, but also an authority on the American lobster.

*Bruce Leseine is shown in one of his launches gazing out to sea where his lobster-pots are anchored.*

# Along the N. A. A. C. P. Battlefront

THE COURTS AND CONGRESS: During the past months the NAACP has been active in several cases involving civil rights and in opposing bills in Congress which are inimical to Negro welfare.

Our attorneys in February successfully blocked the attempt of Alabama to snatch Ralph Johnson back to that state from Pennsylvania. Johnson fled to Pennsylvania in December, 1943, to escape a mob in Talladega county, Alabama. Alabama then sought to get him back under the Federal Fugitive Felon Act of 1934, an act passed primarily to close the channels of interstate commerce to racketeers and gangsters. This is probably the first case of its kind where a southern state has sought the return of a Negro under this federal statute.

If the removal order had been carried out, Johnson would have been sent to the jurisdiction of the Federal court in Talladega county, Alabama. Once there, he would no doubt have been freed by the Federal court, which would have made him available to the state authorities. Successful execution of this trick would have meant Johnson's arrest and trial in an Alabama state court.

But in the midst of argument of Johnson's case in Pittsburgh, Pa., February 9 in the United States District Court, the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama suddenly announced withdrawal of charges. Technically he entered *nolle prosequi;* that is, the plaintiff or prosecutor proceeded no further in his action. The judge had continued the removal proceedings for two weeks pending receipt from the United States Attorney's Office in Alabama of a certified copy of the order to *nolle prosse.*

Johnson was defended by a battery of NAACP lawyers; the law firm of Smith and Smith of Greensburg, Pa., Homer Brown of the NAACP National Legal Committee, Thurgood Marshall Marshall, NAACP Special Counsel, and Robert L. Carter of the NAACP legal staff.

The whole question of the use of the Federal Fugitive Felon Act in a case like this was referred to Attorney General Biddle and Victor Rotnem, chief of the Civil Rights Section, by special counsel Marshall. The case was studied and reviewed by the Civil Rights Division and the matter was discussed with United States Attorney Smith for the Northern District of Alabama. It was the contention of Johnson's attorneys and the NAACP that Congress enacted this statute to close the channels of interstate commerce to racketeers, gangsters, and kidnapers and not to assist the states in the extradition of citizens from one state to another.

This is the second time Johson has won his freedom in the space of a year. Last April Talladega county authorities sought his extradition on a charge of attempting to kill his white landlord. The governor of Pennsylvania had already signed the extradition papers when Johnson and his lawyers went into the Common Pleas Court and recited the story of what had actually happened to Johnson in Alabama. Judge McWherter thereupon denied the extradition, stating that in his opinion Johnson would not get a fair trial in Alabama and might be lynched.

The Association was also successful in securing the release of Pvt. Silas Askerneese from civilian authorities in Lillington county, N. C., to face a court martial before military authorities at Fort Bragg, N. C. Askerneese was charged with "breaking and entering with intent to steal." Trial by North Carolina civil authorities might have resulted in a possible death sentence for the defendant, since he entered the home of a Mrs. Black while intoxicated.

In the subsequent court-martial proceeding, Askerneese was sentenced to dishonorable discharge and confinement at hard labor for six months. Upon a review by the Judge Advocate General's Office in Washington, the sentence was reduced to six months imprisonment. There is, however, the possibility that Askerneese, because of his previous good record, may be restored to full duty at the end of the period of imprisonment.

On the congressional front the NAACP has renewed its fight for the passage of anti-lynching legislation and is supporting Bill HR. 1698 introduced January 22 by Congressman D. Lane Powers (Rep., N. J.). Of the five bills introduced during the first days of January, the Association is backing the Powers' measure.

House Resolution 88, introduced by Repre-

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**NAACP BRANCH OFFICERS AND WORKERS**—*Left to right, W. E. James, president Tarpon Springs, Fla., branch; George J. Cooper, president Council Bluffs, Iowa, branch; Mrs. Beatrice Reed, administrative assistant Washington, D. C., branch; Dr. W. W. Yerby, campaign chairman, St. Louis, Mo., branch; Carl A. Thomasson, president Grand Rapids, Mich., branch; and Mrs. Nellie Jackson Bonner, member of the executive board and co-chairman of the membership committee of the San Francisco, Calif., branch.*

sentative Howard W. Smith, Democrat of Virginia, and which was favorably reported to the House January 18 by the Committee on Rules, is being opposed as inimical to the Negro. Resolution 88 would extend the life of this committee for another two years. This committee is dangerous because like the old Dies Committee it spent most of its time assailing New Deal agencies and liberals in government. FEPC has been the chief target of the Smith Committee and during December, 1943, it ransacked FEPC files because the Boilermakers union complained the FEPC was fighting jim-crow unions.

Opposition to the May-Bailey bill was voiced by the Association on four counts: that although the bill was supposed to have been aimed primarily at 4Fs in non-essential industries, at no time was an inventory taken to determine actually how many of these persons are not already in war work; that the Army and Navy are not making the most economical use of the men they now have in that thousands of Negro soldier and sailors are still being used as laborers and servants when they could be used to relieve combat troops suffering from battle fatigue; that many war plants today are discharging workers, while hundreds of others are continuing discriminatory hiring and upgrading practices against Negroes; and that because of race and sex discrimination, the vast reservoir of Negro womanpower is virtually untouched as far as employment in war plants is concerned.

Aside from the lack of necessity for this legislation, the NAACP expressed the belief that it violated the Thirteenth Amendment of the Constitution prohibiting involuntary servitude, since this bill would force persons to work for private employers.

As a result of the many cases of assault on Negro servicemen and women on the part of civilians in southern communities, the NAACP is fighting to have a GI Assault bill to protect servicemen passed. This bill, HR. 1528, was introduced January 16, and makes it a federal crime to assault or kill a soldier or sailor. Similar bills were introduced in Congress in 1943.

Representative Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., from New York, has, at the request of the Association, introduced a bill (HR. 1925) drafted by the NAACP Legal Committee and the Washington Bureau to prohibit segregation in interstate travel.

Speedy passage of the federal-aid-to-education bill has also been urged by the Association, as well as prompt action now on FEPC legislation.

RED CROSS BLOOD POLICY UNCHANGED: Although it may be true, as reported by some correspondents overseas, that in actual practice "Negro blood plasma" is not separated from that of whites, the American Red Cross is still following its declared policy of segregation and separate labeling.

This policy was regretfully reiterated by Miss Ella Mae Vanderboget of the New York Chapter of the American Red Cross in a letter to the NAACP.

Miss Vanderboget, chairman of the social and employment agencies division in the annual Red Cross drive scheduled for March, wrote the National Office asking that an office chairman be appointed and that solicitations be made for the Red Cross Fund.

In reply, Roy Wilkins, acting secretary, asked whether the Red Cross had changed its blood plasma policy. Miss Vanderboget wrote: "I am sorry the question of Blood Plasma has come up again. I hoped that the decision made in the War Department would be satisfactory to all of you concerned.

"I can only repeat to you that the Red Cross must abide by the instructions given


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by the Government. We have created no policy and have had no say in the making of it."

PRESIDENT HINTS PEACETIME CONSCRIPTION MAY NOT BE JIM CROW: In a letter to the Association, President Roosevelt has hinted that peacetime military conscription may not be on a jim-crow segregated basis. The President makes no promises, no categorical statements, but writes that "final plans have not been crystallized." This is because the Army is still studying the records of Negro troops in training and combat, and future utilization of the Negro "will depend upon an evaluation of this material." Of course, the study is going to be "conducted in a fair manner and with due regard for all available facts."

TAKES ISSUE WITH HINES ON SEPARATE VETERANS HOSPITALS: A protest against the announced plan of the Veterans' Administration to construct separate hospital facilities for Negroes was voiced by Leslie S. Perry, of the Washington bureau, in a letter to Brigadier General Frank T. Hines, administrator of the Veterans Administration. In registering concern over the attitude of the Veterans Administration, Perry pointed to Hine's own testimony before the Appropriations Committee of the House regarding appropriations for 1945. "We are going to have," said Hines, "a problem undoubtedly of providing another Tuskegee hospital, or a solid colored hospital, probably more in the Mississippi-Alabama area. There are a large number of colored troops from that area. The Board is studying all of that now."

The Negro is wholly unrepresented in the policy-making and top-administrative brackets of the Veterans Administration. In the 588 positions listed under Grade II classification it was found that none are filled by Negroes, despite the fact that the 1946 budget estimated at $227,675,000 contemplates increased personnel in the designated jobs.

PROTEST "BIRTH OF NATION" SHOWING BY MUSEUM OF MODERN ART: The Association demanded immediate withdrawal of the race-baiting film "Birth of a Nation" which was being shown during January by the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

DOUBLE CROSS IN TAFT MOVE ON FEPC? In a letter February 7 to Herbert E. Brownell, Jr., chairman of the Republican National Committee, it was charged that Negro voters had been given the well-known "double cross" by Republicans and Senator Taft's refusal to support a bill for FEPC with teeth in it. The letter stated that not only did the GOP not intend to support an FEPC bill, but that it also intended to sabotage and defeat any legislation attacking the problem of discrimination in employment.

Making the NAACP's stand clear on Senator Taft's move to betray GOP promises made at the national convention last summer, Roy Wilkins, acting secretary, told Brownell: "Our attitude is that until the Republican party chiefs and congressional leaders repudiate the stand of Senator Taft, the party itself, its candidates and its policies, national and local, must bear the responsibility for this about-face in the minds of millions of Negro voters."

In a letter also to Taft, pointing out the trick in the Senator's recent maneuver to set up an investigating commission with no compulsory powers, the NAACP said: "You cannot help but realize this proposal of yours for a commission to investigate and find out whether there is discrimination and its extent, is a move that deceives no one. What is needed is action to correct the discriminatory practices known to exist."

**BIRTHDAY-CAKE COMMITTEE, YORK, PA., BRANCH**—*Left to right the committee members are Mrs. James G. Cooper, Mrs. Louise Robinson, Mrs. Ruth Johnson, Mrs. Frank A. Reed (wife of the branch president), cutting the cake, Miss Laura Burkett, Mrs. James Bridgett, and Mrs. Maude S. Nicholl, chairman of the committee.*

## Branch News

CALIFORNIA: In a review of the highlights of its activities for 1944 the Los Angeles branch noted the following: organization of the Citizens Emergency committee, representing a cross-section of the community, to deal with problems of newcomers to the community; aid in the securing of Negro operators by the Los Angeles Railway Company and the upgrading of Negro workers in the Los Angeles postoffice and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's office; investigation of complaints of discrimination with corrective steps where possible; demands for investigation of conditions in the armed forces at Port Hueneme, Fall Brook, Port Chicago and Terminal Island and the conditions surrounding the so-called mutiny of Negro seamen at Port Chicago; contribution of money and services to legal defense cases: $300 was given to the Robert Folkes Defense Committee and $500 was donated to help fight the Boilermaker's case; and cooperation of the legal committee in fighting residential restrictive covenants.

The 1944 membership drive which ended July 31, 1944, was the most successful in the history of the branch. The $14,000 contributed represented more than 8,500 members. Since the close of the drive, hundreds of memberships have been received, many of them from men fighting overseas.

Branch expansion has necessitated the employment of a full-time field secretary, Miss Nita Blackwell. The branch office is now located at 4272 S. Central Ave.

One of the recent significant achievements of the branch was abolishing the use of textbooks which caricatured Negroes at Compton Junior College. And together with other local groups the branch fought for a fair councilmanic redistricting in Los Angeles and secured the addition of sufficient Negro votes to make it possible to elect a Negro councilman in the 7th District.

Seven branch delegates attended the NAACP regional conference held in San

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(Date of publication February 23, 1945)

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Francisco November 24-25. The branch also publishes a quarterly bulletin, *Action*, which it sends to all members. The 1945 program includes housing, postwar employment, educational policies, legislation and race relations, and state support for a FEPC bill introduced in the state legislature.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: George E. C. Hayes, president of the Washington branch, has announced the employment of Mrs. Beatrice Reed as administrative assistant in that office. Mrs. Reed is a resident of Washington, having attended Cardoza high school and Howard university. She has a wide acquaintance with organizations in the field of interracial cooperation and has been active in the labor movement in Washington.

FLORIDA: A branch of the Association was recently organized in Washington county, Florida. The branch has seventy-three members and meetings are held once every month. Officers are P. B. Thomas, president; James Wilson, vice-president; Hilton A. Turner, secretary; and M. Sheffield, treasurer.

ILLINOIS: Mrs. Valdeenia Brown Gruner has been elected chairman of the legal redress and legislation committee of the Tri-City (Rock Island, Moline, East Moline) branch for the year 1945. She is an employee of Rock Island Arsenal and recently she filed a petition of nomination as alderman for the third ward on the Democratic ticket in Rock Island. This is the first time in the memory of veteran city officials that a woman or a Negro has sought nomination as an alderman.

IOWA: Officers of the Council Bluff branch were installed January 7 at the Tabernacle Baptist church. Rev. J. E. Blackmore, president of the Omaha branch and pastor of Hillside Presbyterian church, performed the installation ceremony. The installed officers were George Cooper, president; Hansel Lytle, vice-president; Mrs. Jeanne Banks, second vice-president; Mrs. Inez Willis, secretary; Mrs. Emma Turner, assistant secretary; and Mrs. Sylvia Brown, treasurer; as well as the following chairmen of committees: Mrs. Manilla Copeland, membership; Mrs. Kathleen Mitchell, press and publicity; Thomas J. Linton, legal redress; Jack Willis, labor and industry; Mrs. Thelmar Lytle, education; Mrs. Lula Douglas, program and entertainment; Mrs. Marybelle Cruse, youth council and junior work; and John Mills, political activities.

Thirtieth anniversary banquet of the Des Moines branch was held at the St. Paul AME church January 18. The anniversary address was delivered by Atty. M. F. Fields, president of the Iowa State Conference. A brief history of the branch was given by Atty. S. Joe Brown, founder of the branch. Officers of the branch are A. P. Trotter, president; Rev. C. Lopez McAllister, first vice-president; Miss Stella Scurlock, second vice-president; Mrs. William Neal, secretary; and Mrs. Azalia Mitchell, treasurer.

## BRANCH PRESIDENT

*Dr. D. G. Morris has been for twelve years president of the 15-year-old Bayonne, N. J., branch.*

MARYLAND: During the months of December and January forty-four cases were handled by the Baltimore branch. Of these cases the following three are outstanding: Case of Trust R. Brown, 1618 Balmor street, and the City Service Commission. Mr. Brown filed application for city fireman with the City Service Commission and after a lapse of two weeks was asked to report to the secretary of the Board of Fire Commissioners, P. W. Wilkinson. He reported to Mr. Wilkinson with his letter from the City Service Commission and was instructed by the secretary to write "others have been selected" on the letter. Mr. Brown received three additional calls but was instructed each time by Mr. Wilkinson to write the same statement, "others have been selected."

Conferences were then arranged by the membership secretary with Mayor McKeldin and the Board of Fire Commissioners. Since the inference at each conference was that the time was not ripe, the branch has now entered suit against the city.

In the case of Rayford L. Yarbrough, 223 N. Spring Court, Mr. Yarbrough informed the branch that twenty men had been demoted from the Erector department of the Hull division of the Bethlehem Steel Company Shipbuilding. They had been loaned to the pipe fitting department but when they were to return to the Erector department, they were informed that no work was now available and that they would have to go either to the bolter department or the Y-gang, the dirtiest and lowest paying job. Mrs. Kiah got in contact with Herman Cruze, foreman of the Hull division, who had demoted the men. He let her know that he was running his business. Unable to get the manager, Mrs. Kiah finally got his assistant Melvin G. Hodgkinson, who promised that the men would be returned to their former jobs. This was later done.

The third case in which the branch played an active part is that involving the repeal of the forty-one-year-old Maryland jim-crow law. Governor O'Conor has already isssued a statement in favor of repeal (*Morning Sun*, February 5) in which he states "that it is inconsistent to keep on the statute books an antiquated law offensive to and unnecessarily restrictive upon the very group we are trying to help."

One hundred ninety-five memberships and $205 have been received from Sgt. Paul S. Williams, 986th QM Service Company. Sgt. Williams is a Baltimorean and a member of the Providence Baptist church.

Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, branch president, in January wrote a letter to Bishop Charles Wesley Flint, chairman of the board of trustees of Sharp Street Methodist church, protesting against the shocking action of the Sibley hospital in refusing admittance to an 18-year-old unwed mother who was forced to give birth to her child on the sidewalk in sub-zero weather. She was denied admittance because of her color. Sibley hospital is supported by the Methodist church.

MICHIGAN: Report of the executive secretary of the Detroit branch list achievements of that branch from December 12 to January 8. The branch was active in the fields of housing, interracial hospitals, FEPC, education, and youth activities. Goals for 1945 include passage of FEPC legislation in the state; erection of a mental hospital for Wayne county; enaction of anti-discrimination clause in insurance laws to safeguard Negro motorists who desire to secure liability insurance in compliance with the Michigan Financial Liability Law; nurse training; admittance of doctors and patients regardless of race or color and practice of non-discrimination in all hospitals, public or private; a comprehensive appraisal of Detroit's intercultural education program, and a review and analysis of proposed public school buildings, taking into account neighborhood changes and inequalities now existent; an ordinance or law prohibiting discrimination in public housing in Detroit; closer cooperation with organized labor and refusal to accept special privilege in seniority provisions—emphasis to be placed on program for full employment; full speed ahead on programs for health and social security such as proposed in the Wagner-Dingell bill; and legislation to protect installment buyers.

New president of the Grand Rapids branch is Carl A. Thomasson. This is the second time he has served the branch as president and in his inaugural speech he outlined a long-term branch program. The branch voted to contribute $100.00 to the Wendell Willkie Memorial Fund.

Rev. H. C. Toliver of the True Light Baptist church, Grand Rapids, began an all-Negro newsreel show with a prayer for double victory at home and abroad. This all-Negro picture featured the 92nd Division in Italy.

NEW JERSEY: Miss Clara Smith of the Paterson branch set another precedent when she spoke at the New Benjamin Franklin high school, East River Drive, New York City, for the Coordinating Council. Other speakers on the program with Miss Smith were Dr. Frederick M. Thrasher and Dr. Leonard Covello, principal of the school. Miss Smith is president of the women's division of the Negro Voter's League and is actively interested in the work of the NAACP and FEPC.

On February 11 the educational committee of the Camden branch sponsored a Negro history program at the St. Augustine Parish House, 9th and Sycamore streets. Numbers on the program were the "Star Spangled Banner," invocation by Rev. A. Ellison, chaplain of the branch, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," "The Negro in the Field of Religion" by Rev. J. W. Johnson, Jr., art by Miss Laura Brown, featuring Sam Brown, outstanding artist of Philadelphia, "The Negro and Music" by Mrs. Gordon Morrell, music supervisor in the Camden elementary schools; schools, featuring Mrs. John Howard, composer and soloist; poetry by Miss Francena Potter, librarian of Whittier school; "Go Down Moses" by Langston Hughes, recited by Miss Miriam Hicks; business by Mrs. Mae S. Moore and Miss Lillian Goings; Negro in the field of law by Atty. Robert Burk Johnson; education by Miss Maisie Hall, teacher at Powell school, Camden; Negro fraternal organizations by Miss Elmira Howard, basileus Eta chapter, Phi Delta Kappa sorority; solo by Miss Flossie Quillen; Negro youth by George Lawrence, president Camden youth council, and Dr. Ulysses S. Wiggins, president Camden branch.

OKLAHOMA: In February the Seminole branch held a memorial mass meeting honoring the life and work of Wendell L. Willkie. Branch president L. W. Frances spoke on the purpose of the meeting, the life of Willkie, and the work of the NAACP.

PENNSYLVANIA: The Philadelphia branch held its second membership meeting of the year February 6 at the Southwest-Belmont branch of the YMCA. Committee chairmen were announced and new members appointed to serve for the year.

The following persons were approved for membership on the branch labor committee at the first meeting of the board; William Hartsfield, president of the Employment Agencies Association; Harold Labros, research director of the Upholsterers Union (AFL); Maxwell Windham, vice-president Transport Workers Union (CIO); and Jimmy Jones, organizer for the Steelworkers Union (CIO), chairman.

Taking cognizance of the increasing difficulty colored Americans face in their attempt to secure decent and adequate housing, the Philadelphia branch has gone on record as encouraging the purchase of homes by all families whose circumstances permit them to do so. At the next meeting of the executive board a committee on housing will be appointed, and among its duties will be the task of conducting an educational program for prospective home buyers.

The branch went on record as opposing conscription for military service during peacetime because of the policy of segregation in all branches of the armed services. This stand was taken by the branch in conformity with the policy recently taken by the National Board of Directors.

Mrs. Benjamin M. James, 340 Monroe Street, is paying on a life membership in the NAACP. Among others in Philadelphia who are paying on life memberships are Henry Carter Patterson, director of the War Relocation Authority in this city; Henry Armstrong, boxer; and the Pyramid Club.

VIRGINIA: S. F. Coppage has been elected president of the Norfolk branch. P. B.

**REGISTER AND VOTE COMMITTEE OF THE NEW HAVEN BRANCH**—*"Register and vote" is the slogan adopted by this committee of the New Haven, Conn., branch. Committee members seated are (left to right) Violet Russell, Mrs. Baker, and Agnes Healey. Standing, left to right, are Charles Hubbard, Clarence Carter, Ernest Saunders, and Robert Phillips.*

Young, Sr., was named chairman of the Past President's Council and Lem Graves chairman of the new committee on war veterans. Other branch officers are Mrs. Maria W. Jackson, first vice-president; Miss T. Ione Diggs, second vice-president; Miss Virginia L. Davidson, secretary; Mrs. Ola Sawyer, assistant secretary; and J. B. Williams, treasurer. Two life memberships of $500 each were taken out by the branch recently, one by the *Journal and Guide* and the other by the Longshoremen's Association.

Dr. W. C. Somerville spoke to the Franklin branch in January on some of the civic needs of Franklin and gave suggestions for meeting them. Rev. J. A. Davis is president of the branch.

WEST VIRGINIA: On Race Relations Sunday the Monongalia County branch, Morgantown, secured speakers and arranged for the exchange of ministers in various Negro and white pulpits in the city. Among the Negro speakers who appeared in white pulpits were President John W. Davis, of West Virginia State College, and three of his professors; Richard McKinney, president of Storer College; and Carl Lee, a Chinese now living in Buckhannon, W. Va.

The branch also announces an essay contest on the life of George Washington Carver being conducted among the high-school students in the county. The prizes offered are $25 first prize, $15 second, and $10 third.

## Book Reviews

### JUDGMENT CONTRADICTORY

***We Who Would Die.* By Binga Dismond. New York: Wendell Malliet and Company, 1943. $2.00.**

Binga Dismond's *We Who Would Die*, his first publication, contains about forty poems indicative of a variety of interests. Clearly the author has touched life at many points in such a way as to know it pretty thoroughly from crudeness to sophistication. Clearly, too, he has a keen awareness of the types of people he has seen and known and of their reactions to the economic, social, and cultural situations they have faced. His education, his travel, his varied experience give point to what he writes as a Negro caught up in the conflicting American and world-wide human relations, especially as these involve interracial and intercultural contacts and their resultant attitudes. Yet after several readings one closes this little volume with decidedly contradictory judgments.

As Dr. Arthur P. Davis says in his foreword there is no escaping the message of some of the poems. "The Black Falcon", "The Mixed Brigade", and "Their Blood Must Mingle with the Rest" protest that sort of American discrimination which compels the Negro to fight for the right to full and equal participation in the present war. The contemptuous regard for the black officer-pilot in his segregated unit, the refusal to allow life-long pals to fight side by side now as they have always voluntarily done, the segregation of the blood-bank are pointed up in these three poems with an admirably controlled militancy. The same mastery of idea appears in "Black Editorial", "From Every Grave", and "Heading up the River", the last of which captures the strong thumping rhythm of the militant spiritual. Two poems, "To the Men of the Soviet Army" and "Fellow Traveler" illustrate the broader world-view stripped of demagogic partisanship.

A few other poems will serve to show Dismond's more varied interests. "West Indian Elegy" and "How Is Y'All" are pen pictures in dialect, "Recipe" is a gourmet's potpourri, while "The Doctor's Secretary", "Relay", "Haitian Vignettes", "On a Cabin Cruiser", and "Memories", among others, reflect the author's experience in professional, athletic, travel, and more personal relations. Few poems of this group have a strong appeal ideationally or otherwise. "West Indian Elegy" is a little gem, far better in construction and poetic appeal than "How Is Y'All". "The Doctor's Secretary" and the two other poems associated with the author's profession are something new in verse, but they fall just far enough short in graphic picturization to make one wish that Dr. Dismond had done a good prose tale involving the doctor, the secretary, and the student nurse. "Relay" promises well but fails in the end. In general it may be said that of the poems expressing love and friendship "On a Cabin Cruiser" and "This Thing I Know" are Dismond's best. These come closer to poetic fervor than do the others.

## LEGAL DIRECTORY

The following directory of some of the many colored lawyers in this country is carried in response to numerous inquiries from readers desiring to contact attorneys outside their home towns. THE CRISIS maintains no legal bureau, and the N.A.A.C.P. handles only cases involving color discrimination, segregation or denial of citizenship rights.

**CALIFORNIA**

**Clarence A. Jones**
129 W. 3rd St., Los Angeles 13
Telephone: VAndyne 1764

**Marshall Denton, Jr.**
3429 S. Central Ave.
Los Angeles 11
Telephone: ADams 5544

**H. Leonard Richardson**
4066 South Central Ave., Los Angeles 11
Telephone: Adams 7774

**DELAWARE**

**Louis L. Redding**
1002 French St., Wilmington 30
Telephone: 3-1924

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**Isaiah Lisemby**
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Telephone: North 7343

**ILLINOIS**

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3000 S. State St., Chicago, Ill.
Telephone: Cal-4968-9

**INDIANA**

**William Henry Huff**
East Chicago (Direct mail to
520 East 35th St., Chicago 16)
Telephone: OAkland 6749

**MICHIGAN**

**Floyd H. Skinner**
Michigan at Monroe Avenue, Grand Rapids
Telephone: 8-9042

**NEW JERSEY**

**J. Mercer Burrell**
23 Howard St., Newark
Telephone: MA 3-4709

**Logan W. McWilson**
128 Market St., Newark 2
Telephone: MA 3-1779

**NEW YORK**

**William T. Andrews**
1 West 125th St., New York, N. Y.
Telephone: LEhigh 4-0989

**William T. Garvin**
217 W. 125th St., New York 27, N. Y.
Telephone: ACademy 2-9260

**OHIO**

**Harry E. Davis**
202-6 Engineers Bldg., Cleveland
Telephone: MAin 1320

**Chester K. Gillespie**
416 Hickox Bldg., Cleveland 14
Telephone: CHerry 1835

**OKLAHOMA**

**Cecil E. Robertson**
114½ Court St., Muskogee
Telephone: 836

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**Raymond Pace Alexander**
40 S. Nineteenth Street, Philadelphia
Telephone: Rittenhouse 9960

**Sadie T. Mossell Alexander**
40 S. Nineteenth Street, Philadelphia
Telephone: Rittenhouse 9960

**Theodore Spaulding**
425 South Broad St., Philadelphia
Telephone: Pennypacker 4834

**Fitzhugh Lee Styles**
2200 West Columbia Ave., Philadelphia
Telephone: Stevenson 6182

It will be noted that the two poems just named come closer to the exoticism (though realistically portrayed) of "Haitian Vignettes" and to the sophistication of "Margurite", "A Translation from the French of Catulle Mendes", and "The Insatiate". Here Dismond seems to have struck his real vein, though this is not especially rich. In the first two of these poems Dismond says much more by suggestion than by actual statement. In the third he achieves a concreteness of language, and hence of suggestive picturization, seldom found in the other poems. Besides, there is here a profundity of truth divorced from direct didacticism but associated with universal behavior which every poet would do well to keep in mind.

From what has been said it should be clear that little complaint is made of Dismond as to strength or variety of ideas. The generous concessions of Countee Cullen as to "technical earnestness" of the poems, as well as the author's disarming prefatory note, make it difficult to pass harsh judgment on this first volume. It must be said nevertheless that far too much of this book is pure prosody. Generally speaking, it has a technical correctness not often met with in the later poets, a correctness such as one finds in the Victorian poets, as Cullen has well said. Because of this many of the poems have a sing-song lilt that seems foreign to the spirit of the author. Reference to those poems (already noted) in which he frees himself from artificial restraints of verse form suggests that he might have done better in impressionistic verse. Yet the diction is so frequently trite and abstract that only a handful of the pieces are satisfying as poetry. The prose piece "Haitian Drums" suggests that after all prose is probably Dismond's proper medium.

ARTHUR E. BURKE

## WALTER WHITE REPORTS

***A Rising Wind.*** **By Walter White. Doubleday, Doran and Company, New York. 155 pp. $2.00.**

Walter White's report on the color line policy in the army overseas in Europe and its effect on Negroes in the army, on the British people, on Negroes in America, and on the fate of democracy, is the result of fifteen weeks spent abroad beginning January 1, 1944, as an accredited war correspondent for the New York *Post*.

In view of the fact that the race question in the army is regarded as a most delicate one, not to be discussed forthrightly, the revelations and direct criticisms which the author managed to get approved by Washington censors is surprising.

Here is told the story of the treatment of the Negro soldier in Europe. His complaints are set forth, sometimes plainly, sometimes through between-lines writing. General Eisenhower's orders on treatment of Negro soldiers are quoted, but these often are interpreted freely by subordinate commanding officers.

Walter White ranged from England to North Africa, through storied Algiers and Casablanca to Cairo and Italy. He tells from first-hand observation of the spreading by American whites of USA prejudice against Negroes in all these places, of how the British people resisted and resented American jim crow, of how Italians used it in some places, disregarded it elsewhere.

Every chapter is straight-forward Walter White reporting, a well-turned job by a man who has spent twenty-seven years personally investigating and reporting on the race question. He has put together an extremely readable and informative book that deals not only with how the Negro feels about this war against Hitlerism, but how white soldiers, of high and low rank, feel about the color line.

Both white and Negro readers will enjoy the chapter on the late Félix Eboué, governor general of French Equatorial Africa, the one Frenchman of power and influence outside France who held out against Vichy. Eboué, White makes clear, probably saved the French Empire and may have saved the war for the Allies, since with his collaboration Hitler might easily have won all Africa, jumped off Dakar for South America and brought the war to America's doorstep. Nazi submarines, operating off the West African coast, could have played havoc with our shipping routes, cut British off from the East, etc. The man who blocked all that was Eboué. White was fortunate enough to catch Eboué at Cairo for a long interview just two months before he died. In many ways this chapter is worth the price of the whole book.

"A wind is rising throughout the world of free men everywhere, and they will not be kept in bondage." This sentence from a speech by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt in September, 1941, gives the book its title. The author warns that the doctrine of racial superiority may lead to a third world war, and declares "a wind *is* rising—a wind of determination by the have-nots of the world to share the benefits of freedom and prosperity which the haves of the earth have tried to keep exclusively for themselves."

Thousands of books will be written on World War II, but on the all-important item of the color line, this one is a "must."

—ROY WILKINS.

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## DIXIE SANS MAGNOLIAS

***Deep River.* By Henrietta Buckmaster. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1944. 481 pp. $3.00.**

During the time prior to the civil War when the nation struggled for and against slavery, there were many men in the heart of the South who fought for freedom. They came down from the mountain country of Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina and Kentucky with hatred in their hearts for human bondage. They believed in labor, but only in labor of the free.

*Deep River,* by Henrietta Buckmaster, is the story of one such man, Simon Bliss, who had learned a hatred of slavery as he learned to walk in his Georgia hill home. In him, the author has drawn a composite picture of the hardships such men endured and the stubborness which they maintained in the bitter struggle against the slaveholders.

Bliss emerges as a vital character from the pages of the novel. Since he is the counterpart of men who really lived, his actions and his words take on the deeper meaning of truth.

As the husband of a "valley girl" who had been bred in slave-holding country, Simon's task was doubly hard. He not only fought the injustice of slavery but at the same time taught his wife to hate the system into which she had been born. He had to teach her "silence and stealth and watching and waiting, when every pulse in [her] body was crying out for a free voice and free ways."

As a representative, chosen by his people to go down into Millidgeville in the valley, Simon learned to fight within the Legislature for the things in which he believed.

Through this section of the novel, Miss Buckmaster has many men pass who really lived—Bigelow, Rufus Hare, Redpath, Goodloe, Ross—battling one another in a war of ideas which led to the Civil War. The intimate pictures here of the conduct of the Legislature, the fist fights and the bludgeonings which erupted when words failed to carry enough conviction, all serve to make the book vividly alive. One can easily imagine a Bilbo and a Will Rogers, Jr., slugging away at each other within those same scenes.

*Deep River* emerges under the hands of the author into running commentary on this period in our history. There is a clever intermixture of the facts (which form the background on which the characters move) and the fancy (which serves to make a well documented novel wholly readable). Minor characters, such as many of the "hillbillies" in the work, stick in the memory because of their closeness to life and the little idiosyncracies which make them really human to the reader.

Miss Buckmaster has done a fine job in bringing to light the story of the men who fought slavery in the South. They were a gallant and an important group, of whom Jefferson Davis said that the Confederacy would have triumphed had it not been for them.

With the publication of this book, Miss Buckmaster continues to grow in stature as a chronicler of this period of our history. Both as the author of *Deep River* and of *Let My People Go* she has proved her mettle and her skill. It is perhaps fitting that these books by her have titles taken from spirituals. It is to Miss Buckmaster's credit that she, in writing novels of the revolt of people against a vicious system should note the spiritual—which was a song of revolt.

Simon's story is one which has not been told enough. It is important that it be known, for in him lay hope for a South bent on destruction in the nineteenth century and through him came aid for the salvation of the South. Now that the South seems to struggle once again toward suicide one may hope that the twentieth century Simon Blisses will come down from the hills—and fight again.

CONSTANCE CURTIS

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## Letters to the Editor

### Policeman's "Siberia"?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRISIS:

I have read the unsigned article "White Policemen in Harlem' 'in the January, 1945, issue of THE CRISIS, and the editor's note concerning it. I agree with your note.

The article spoke, among other matters, of college-bred and socially conscious young men who are entering the police force in New York City. I wonder how many of these young and better qualified policemen have been assigned to the Harlem and other colored neighborhood station houses.

On the other side of the picture, the author did not discuss the number of policemen who are detailed to these station houses, and particularly, to the Harlem station houses, as punishment. Harlem, I understand, is known in the police force as the policemen's "Siberia." It would be interesting to find out how many of the policemen in Harlem and in other Negro communities of the City are assigned there in this manner. What then of their sense and reaction to duty: (a) in general; (b) in the particular neighborhood? How would their attitude influence the reactions of the residents of the community?

I wonder how long have the Harlem station houses been the recipients of policemen assigned to them for punishment. I wonder how the ration of such policemen in Harlem and in other Negro commmunities of our City compare with the young college-bred and socially conscious policemen referred to in the article.

If Harlem is the New York City policemen's "Siberia," I am sure every fair minded person will agree that it should not be.

I wonder if you and the writer of the article would be interested in trying to get the facts concerning this, and also in attempting to do something about it, if it is true.

WILLIAM T. ANDREWS

*New York City*
*January* 12, 1945

[*Mr. Andrews is a member of The Assembly of the State of New York*]

### Use Negro Cops in Harlem

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRISIS:

WHY white policemen in Harlem is my reaction to the unsigned article in your January issue.

The writer of the article in question I presume is a white person. [*The author is a white policeman, Ed.*] The general tone is inclined to be fair and friendly but he, like the doctor whose patient continues to suffer, has made an error in diagnosis.

The Negro in Harlem does not hate white people, neither does he hate policemen; it is only when the two are combined in the same individual. He hates the white policeman because he represents the continuation of everything that he despises. He turns on him all of the pent up spleen of many generations of a downtrodden people who are unjustly treated and unduly exploited in this their native land. The white policeman is the Simon Legree of the days of his bondage, the unfair landlord to the share-cropper, the gang boss, and to the educated and professional group he hymbolizes the hopelessness of the struggle against the forces that insist on degrading him.

The Negro does not hate the white policeman at 42nd and Broadway but he hates him at 125th and Seventh Avenue. When he sees one in the neighborhood in which he is forced to live he resents it. He despises the system that makes such things possible and riots are the overt expressions of resentment against this system.

To be forced to live in the congestion of Harlem is terrible. Those who live under such conditions do not do so from choice, and it is disagreeable and distasteful. The white policeman is the representative of the force which makes these things possible. He is the paling on the fence that fences him in.

To the struggling masses in Harlem, most of whom are poor, there is also an economic angle. To see the City jobs in their area go to white people is disturbing. They resent it. The white policeman is the most visible of the City employees and so of necessity is the brunt of this pent up hate. There should not be a white policeman in Harlem. Why are they still there?

When Major Kelly took command of the Metropolitan Police Force in Washington, D. C., there was a great deal of unrest in the great areas of Negro congestion. There were sporadic outbursts against police brutality. Mass meetings and parades were held in protest. His reaction to this situation was to begin systematically the appointment of more colored policemen. He moved men up in rank as their efficiency justified. A white policeman is rarely seen on the streets in this area now. The mass meetings stopped. Nothing more has been heard of police brutality. The people are satisfied. The community is orderly and as well protected as it ever was. If a criminal should be beat up or even shot there is no longer the feeling abroad that a race is be-

ing unjustly handled but instead there is more apt to be the comment that this particular so and so was just no damn good.

The colored policeman knows his beat. He knows the thugs, the thieves and the potential criminals. He also knows the respectable people. He treats the one with the respect that is due and he keeps his eye on the others. Colored people resent the attitude of the white policeman when he is assigned to their neighborhoods. It is never just right. It is not always the fault of the policeman; some try very hard to get along, but the trouble is that he lives on the other side of the railroad tracks.

I would, therefore, like to suggest, since we have not yet reached a point in our national development where we are willing to do away with the ghetto, that the police in the black belts be black. Let New York's mayor and police commissioner do what is being done by Major Kelly in Washington. It is not the final solution to an harassing problem, but it is at least an intelligent beginning.

CHARLES H. FLAGG

*Washington, D. C.*
*January* 12, 1945.

*Editor's Note:*

*This letter seems prompted by the successful use of Negro policemen in the Negro areas of Washington, and our correspondent feels that what has worked in Washington should work in New York's Harlem. What he is really advocating, however, is not a solution for a specific police problem, but self-segregation with the corollary that Negro cops should be "special" policemen and not just police. A police problem is a police problem and the color or race of the* gendarmerie *has very little to do with it. Harlem residents will tell you that brutal Negro cops are just as brutal as the brutal white catchpolls, and often more so. Police are police whether white or black and they view their problems as professionals and not as members of a particular racial group To demand Negro police for Harlem is out of step with the spirit of the times and present progress in racial integration.*

## War Prisoners Again

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRISIS:

Inclosed you will find an excerpt from a letter which my 19-year-old brother wrote me this week. He has been in the Army a year and is a member of the Air Corps. This incident occurred while he was enroute from New York to Texas, where he is now stationed. The excerpt follows:

"The trip was excellent until we reached St. Louis, Missouri. When the train was ready to pull out a 1st Lt. MP (white) came into our jim crow car and ordered five soldiers, two WACs and me to get up and give our seats to fifteen Italian prisoners. We wouldn't move, so after a while he took the prisoners off. It seems that the Italians were sitting in the best seats in a white car and the lieutenant thought that they weren't good enough to sit there, but could sit with us. I could not help but give the incident a great deal of thought. I may be wrong in calling the Italians prisoners; perhaps I should have said 'Co-belligerents,' but I can't help thinking that some time or other those fellows fought against us and shot at, if they did not kill, Americans. I wondered if I were in the same situation on a *Nazi* train whether or not one of their officers would come through and order their soldiers to give up their seats for even a *short* distance. It is just such incidents as that that make me wonder what I am fighting for."

That, Mr. Editor, is what many a Negro soldier is puzzling his brain over today. It seems incredible in such critical times as these that an officer of the American Army would have the audacity to order American WACs, who are volunteers, let alone American soldiers, to give up their seats for *any* distance because of such prejudice. Just such incidents at these are the stepping stones in such cases as the recently publicized clash between Negro soldiers and Italians on the West Coast.

I hope that you will find a space in your paper for this, or part of this, letter.

MRS. CHARLES H. PURYEAR

*Long Branch, New Jersey*
*January* 10, 1945.

*Editor's Note:*

*Nothing so lowers Negro morale as the frequent preferential treatment of Axis prisoners of war in contrast with deprecatory Army policy toward American troops who happen to be Negro. Just a few weeks ago in Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas, Lena Horne found herself the featured entertainer of Nazi prisoners of war to the exclusion of our own Negro soldiers. And some months ago in Texas Negro troops found that they as loyal Americans could not eat in the same station dining room which fed German prisoners of war. The German were white —and welcome; the Negroes, black and American, and therefore* persona non grata.

## Agrees on the Hate

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRISIS:

"White policemen in Harlem," in the January, 1945, issue of the CRISIS, was written by a white police officer to explain the bad treatment the poor police receive from Negroes. It strikes me in the same way as Hitler's protest in 1938 against little Czechoslovakia mistreating Germany or as a protest from Congressman Rankin of Mississippi that Negroes are imposing on white folks in that God-forsaken State.

I live in Chicago and I am not too familiar with conditions in Harlem—but the pattern does not change very much in any of the black belts of northern cities.

I think the writer's statement that Negroes hate and distrust white policemen is generally true. Why is it true? In the first place policemen are generally not interested in the Negro community in which they work. They are interested in the graft they can collect and the persons they can shake down and the rackets they can protect. In Chicago it is generally known that police consider the "Black Belt" as the richest hunting ground in the city. Here, the prostitutes, pimps, gamblers, policy operators, keepers of disorderly houses, and jitney drivers who are illegally operating can all be shaken down and taken for a ride. Furthermore, a cop has an additional opportunity to divide whatever money a poor arrested victim may have with some bondsman or lawyer recommended by the cop.

The cops do very little to prevent or punish disorderly conduct on the streets, violation of health and sanitary laws, and crime and vice which contribute to juvenile delinquency and other evils. They are too interested in feathering their own nests. Furthermore, since they do not live in the districts, they don't care how the neighborhood degenerates.

All Negroes know these facts—whether they are professional people, business people or workers, and knowing these things they resent it—and distrust and even hate policemen for it.

If a race riot breaks out in Chicago or any other city, Negroes know that they will be murdered by white police officers just as they were in the Detroit riot. Even in the black belts of northern cities, Negro policemen are very few compared to the white police. This is another factor which creates animosity. Contrasted with this is the fact that practically no Negro police officers are ever stationed in the downtown business districts or in white neighborhoods. [*In New York City Negro police are also used in white districts, Ed.*] In Chicago for example, the park system has its own police who have sole jurisdiction of all the parks and boulevards in Chicago. The jurisdiction covers all the parks and beaches and Michigan Avenue and South Parkway, the two main Negro thoroughfares. Yet, with all the so-called Negro advancement in Chicago, there is only one Negro police officer attached to the entire Chicago Park District.

I recall reading in the New York press, not so long ago about some ruthless and brutal treatment accorded a Negro nurse by white police officers in Harlem. Such incidents as these, along with the conduct of police in the Detroit riots, create distrust, and hate on the part of Negroes.

Of course there are a few exceptions to all cases. There are some decent, intelligent, fair and unprejudiced white police officers in Negro communities. But very few. An illustration of such an exception occurred not so long ago in Chicago when a white officer who was off duty, riding on a street car, risked his life when a group of young white hoodlums began to harrass a Negro street car motorman stating that a "nigger" had no business operating a street car. The police officer interceded and told the boys that the Army did not ask your color when it sent you into battle nor did the enemy bullets know any color line. The hoodlums knocked the police officer down and were beating him up, when he fired his pistol in self defense, seriously wounding two of them. The police officer was locked up and suspended. When the *Chicago Defender* published the true facts, many Negro organizations offered to defray the expenses of defending the officer. Resolutions were passed by the Chicago branch of the NAACP and other organizations, praising him and petions were sent to the mayor and to the civil service commission demanding that the officer be reinstated to his position. Many Negroes voluntarily sent in contributions to the *Defender* for a defense fund. Of course, the officer was exonorated and restored to his position with back pay. This illustrates the fact that Negroes will appreciate good deeds as well as resent bad treatment.

From this writer's experience in seeing Negroes pushed around, clubbed and shot by police, it is my feeling that if there is distrust, animosity, hate and resentment, it is caused by the police. If they want to improve the relations, let them show some interest in getting at the cause of crime and juvenile delinquency; let them help organize recreational facilities for the youth; let them show a respect for the people of the community; let them try to blot out the forces causing the degeneration of the youth and the neighborhood; let them be a friend of the youths and adults in the community and is my feeling that the friendship will be reciprocated, and that hate and distrust will disappear.

SIDNEY A. JONES, JR.

*Chicago, Ill.*
*February* 3, 1945.

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